



# Belmay Primary School Newsletter Term 1 Week 7 ~ February 2020



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Families,

While the situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, it is important that as a school community we apply common sense, factual information and a practical approach to COVID -19.

At Belmay Primary School, we are planning for actions that we can take right now, as well as possible actions that we may have to take into the future.

Our planning will evolve as the challenges ahead of us become clearer. We wanted to be upfront with our parents, staff, students and community about what may be to come, how we plan to deal with this, and how, working together, we can emerge from this situation even stronger.

We are planning for things to get more difficult and this may involve taking some extraordinary steps, unprecedented in our school and community.

Our school has developed a BELMAY PRIMARY SCHOOL CONTINGENCY PLANNING COVID-19 in conjunction with the South East Metro Language Development Centre, with whom we share our school campus with. Ultimately, as all Western Australian schools are required to do, we will take expert direction from the Department of Health and the Government of Australia.

Our planning is a school-based document. For the latest, specific and factual advice and information about Coronavirus (COVID-19), please refer to the Health Department website.

[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus)

## COMMUNICATION

We aim to keep our community well informed, through as many channels as possible. We urge all parents to ensure that the school has your current and up to date contact details, **especially your email address and mobile phone number.**

## CONNECT

We are using CONNECT as our school's major form of communication including latest information regarding COVID-19.

If you are having any problems reading notifications or you cannot remember your log on details, please phone the office on ph 6278 5400. One of our office staff will help to resolve your CONNECT issue.

*Please be aware that if your mobile device performs an automatic update, it may log you off CONNECT. If this happens, you will need to re-enter your P-Number and password. It is important you keep your P-Number and password somewhere safe as this can happen regularly.*

See next page to continue reading ...

## COMING EVENTS

**School Assemblies  
Cancelled until further notice**

~

**In-term Swimming Lessons  
Cancelled until further notice**

~

**School Banking  
Cancelled until further notice**

~

## STILL HAPPENING

**Food Pick-up for Families**  
Mondays 2.30pm

~

**Uniform Shop**  
Wednesday  
8.30am - 10.00am

## SCHOOL TIMES

Gates open: 8.30am  
Siren: Class begins: 8.45am  
Recess: 10.45am - 11.05am  
Lunch: 1.05pm - 1.45pm  
School finishes: 3pm  
**EARLY CLOSE -  
Every Thursday: 2.30pm**

**2020 Term dates Term 1**  
Mon 3 February - Thu 9 April  
**Term 2**  
Tue 28 April - Fri 3 July

**Our School Values**  
Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~  
Striving for Excellence

## From the Principal's Desk cont. ...

### SMS

SMS is our most direct form of communication and the channel for which we have the majority of contact details registered and up to date.

We will communicate urgent and important information via SMS with direction to further information on one or more of our other school platforms such as CONNECT, school website and at times we will be utilising the Belmay P&C website.

### EMAIL

Our school email address is: [belmay.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:belmay.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

### TELEPHONE

Our school phone number is ph 6278 5400. In the event of school closure, the school phone line will be diverted to the Principal's mobile number. Calls should be made in the event of emergency only.

### NAPLAN: LATEST UPDATE AS OF 20/03/2020

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE: NAPLAN 2020 will not proceed.\*\*\***

Education Ministers met today and decided that NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020.

The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the operational and educational needs of their schools in this current climate.

AND FINALLY...

I would like to once again take this opportunity to thank our fabulous staff for their efforts in attending to the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including the preparation of home learning in the event of whole school closure. A very big thank you also to Mr Graham Baxter and Ms Marita Russo for the wonderful class based Harmony Day learning experiences that the children so thoroughly enjoyed throughout the course of this last week.

And THANK YOU to our fabulous parents and extended school community...

We appreciate your continued support under these extenuating circumstances and very much look forward to the times ahead, when we can resume the many school events that we so very much value as a way to bring our community together.

**CANCELLED EVENTS/ PROGRAMS:** Until further notice

- BREAKFAST CLUB PROGRAM
- INTERM SWIMMING, TERM 1, WEEKS 9&10
- SWIMMING TRAINING
- FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES/ NITYY GRITTY
- WEDNESDAY MORNINGS SCHOOL BANKING
- INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING TRAINING
- NAPLAN TESTING 2020

### HOW TO MINIMISE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol based hand gel.
- Refraining from touching mouth and nose.
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.
- Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres).

Kind Regards

*Sarah Durham*  
Principal

**Our School Values**  
Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~  
Striving for Excellence

## Information ...



### ALLERGY AWARE



At Belmay Primary School we currently have students identified with allergies to foods that contain nuts and coconut. This means that you are being asked by our school to consider peanut/nut alternatives for individual student lunches and snacks out of consideration to our children with severe, life threatening allergies.

At Belmay Primary School we aim to raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies and continually review awareness of nut allergies in our school.

Thank you for your support in this matter. We greatly appreciate your assistance in the interest of our students.

The Belmay P&C are now requesting donations for the Easter raffle at the end of this term. Everything Easter will be accepted. Thank you for your support!



**The winners of the survey raffle was the Singh family. Congratulations Amar and Navkirat.**

**We hope you and your family enjoy your prize.**



### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS 2020

In accordance with the Department of Education and Training's Contributions, Charges and Fees Policy September 2001, schools can request up to a maximum contribution of \$60 for Years K-6.

A Contribution is 'voluntary' and the funds are used towards the cost of materials, services and facilities used by students in the educational program. Contributions collected at this school contribute to: classroom resources, e.g. computer equipment, maths resources, reading books, physical education, art equipment etc.

And don't forget, these payments can now be made via our new EFTPOS facility in the front office.

**Your contributions are appreciated and put to good use for all students at Belmay Primary School.**



### School Banking Temporarily Paused

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people is our first priority. Due to the rapidly developing situation with COVID-19, School Banking has been temporarily paused from **20 March 2020 until the start of Term 2.**

We will do our best to keep you informed as the situation progresses.

Please note, our team of School Banking Specialists are still available to support you and your school via mobile and email. Additionally, our School Banking Helpdesk also remains available on 1800 674 496, Monday- Friday, 9am-5pm Sydney time.

### Kindergarten and Pre-primary Enrolment Applications for 2021 OPEN NOW

We will be taking Kindergarten and Pre-primary enrolments for 2021 from now until the cut off date 24 July 2020.

Please see our website <http://www.belmayps.wa.edu.au/PDF/Enrolment%20Application.pdf> for the application form, or visit the front office to pick one up.

Kindergarten is not a compulsory year level and we have limited spaces each year.

### Belmay P&C Upcoming Events

Easter Raffle: 9 April.  
Mothers Day Stall: 5 & 6 May.  
Mothers Day Raffle: 7 May.  
Fathers Day Stall: 1 & 2 September.  
Fathers Day Raffle: 3 September.

***More Fun Events Will Be Planned Throughout The Year.***

### Our School Values

Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~ Striving for Excellence

## Information ...

### Supporting Your Young Person Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

With increasing information and concern about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), children and young people may be feeling a range of emotions such as anxiety, stress, fear, and confusion. As caregivers we play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that helps them to cope with their concerns and take appropriate actions without panicking. The following tips may be helpful when talking to your child or young person.

#### Normal Reactions

- A range of reactions is normal. Young people may feel scared, confused, helpless, or anxious.
- Young people may have problems sleeping, want more adult attention, become angry for no clear reason, or are afraid to go places (e.g., school).
- These reactions can occur even if they are not at risk of getting sick.

If your young person continues feeling this way for a long period of time, they may need more help coping. See 'Further Support' for details.

#### Be Calm and Reassuring

- Listen to your child, speak kindly, and reassure them. They may need extra attention from you and want to talk about their concerns, fears, and questions.
- Accept their feelings and tell them it is okay to feel worried, confused, sad, etc.
- Reassure them that if they do get sick, adults are there to take care of them.
- Remember, young people react to how you respond and the things you say to them and others.

#### Give Accurate, Age-Appropriate Information

- When young people do not have factual information, they may imagine far worse situations.
- Give factual information appropriate for their age/development.
- Allow them to ask questions and answer their questions with age-appropriate information.
- Provide clear information on how the COVID-19 can spread and symptoms, and what they can do to prevent the infection spreading.
- Provide information about what could happen in a reassuring way (e.g., 'someone in our family may not feel well so they may go to the doctor who can help them feel better').

#### Monitor Media Exposure

- Talk with your young person about how information on the internet and social media may not be true.
- Limit viewing and/or access to information on the internet, social media, and television.
- Be aware that information for adults can cause anxiety and confusion in young people.

#### Avoid Blame

- Remember that COVID-19 can make anyone sick. Avoid blaming others and making assumptions about who may have COVID-19.

See next page to continue reading ...



Web resource - <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>

From the internet

I have created this short book to support and reassure our children, under the age of 7, regarding the COVID-19. This book is an invitation for families to discuss the full range of emotions arising from the current situation. It is important to point out that this resource does not seek to be a source of scientific information, but rather a tool based on fantasy. My recommendation is to print this material so children can draw on it. Remember that emotions are processed through repetitive play and stories read multiple times. Share COVIBOOK and help ease kiddo's anxiety all over the world.

With love,  
Manuela Molina - the author

### Our School Values

Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~ Striving for Excellence

## Information ...

### Teach Good Hygiene Practices

Giving information about how to prevent infection can give young people a sense of control, reducing their anxiety and stress. Encourage and teach your child good hygiene including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds (e.g., sing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star slowly or Happy Birthday twice).
- If coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or the bend of your elbow.
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and then wash hands.
- Avoid close contact with others if they or others have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Maintain Normal Routines and Encourage Positive Activities
- Keep to normal routines as much as possible,
- Support children to eat healthily, exercise, engage in fun activities, and get enough sleep. This will help them to have a stronger immune system to fight illnesses.

### Remaining Home from School

As a precautionary measure to minimise the risk to others we advise that you keep your child home from school if they are exhibiting cold/flu-like symptoms. We are living in a time where extra vigilance is needed, and we ask that you keep this in mind when making decisions around your child's health.

### Stay Informed

You are encouraged to stay updated about the COVID-19 situation by visiting the following:

- Department of Education: <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/en/home>
- World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Western Australian Department of Health: <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/>

***Please contact your GP if you have concerns regarding yourself or a young person being unwell.***

### Further Support

If you or your family members need additional support, please contact the school who can access supports. Alternatively, for urgent concerns, contact one of the following (available 24 hours):

- Emergency: 000
- Crisis Care: 9223 1111
- Urgent Mental Health Support Line: 1800 048 636 (support for young people aged under 18 years)
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line: 1300 555 7888 (support for individuals aged 18+ years)
- Counselling Option (not for urgent concerns). Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800, <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

#### P & C News

The P&C had much planned for the year, however, given recent world-wide changes and concerns, we are modifying some of these. Most importantly, we are still here to support the school community and our students.

Coming up!

**Easter raffle** – Easter donations accepted until 3rd April

**Mothers Day stall** – more info to come

Notes will be sent home regarding these activities and how they will be conducted safely

**Next P & C Meeting** – 27th March 8.45am, Canteen.

**All welcome. Attendance can be in person or via video call in.**

#### Hi! Our new P&C committee is here.

- ◇ **President: Kylie Watson**
- ◇ **Vice President: Sarah Jackson**
- ◇ **Treasurer: Jacqui Hamling**
- ◇ **Secretary: Fiona Clarke**
- ◇ **Executive: Chantelle Margetts**  
**Cassandra Carranza**  
**Nicole Johnson**  
**Lydia Allbeury**

### Our School Values

Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~ Striving for Excellence

## What's Happening ...

### Science

This semester for Science we are looking at Biological Science. Rooms 7 & 8 are on a 'Schoolyard Safari' looking at small animals that can be found around the school. We have also had a close look at worms and snails.

In Room 9 we have been looking at how living things grow and their life cycles. We have been doing a mealworm investigation; watching all of its life stages unfold.

Room 14 has been exploring the features of living things and how we can group them. Room 13 is 'Among the Gum Trees' learning about the eucalyptus tree life cycle, how animals help them, and how the trees help animals. Students are also growing their very own eucalyptus tree from a seed. Rooms 1 & 2 are investigating 'Desert Survivors'; how plants and animals survive in the desert.

For Technology this semester we are doing design. Room 8 are going 'Beyond a Box' where they have used a box to create something else, and there are some truly amazing creations.

Room 9 have designed 'Super Sock Puppets' to go with a nursery rhyme. Room 14 are the 'Krazy Kite Makers' where I hope that they will be able to get the kites off the ground. Room 13 have made some 'Marvellous Milkshakes' where almost all of the students absolutely loved their healthy shakes! I hope that they will be able to try them out at home.



Just for mid-term fun in Technology, we have all made beautiful Paper Lanterns as decorations for our Harmony Day celebration.



### Our School Values

Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~ Striving for Excellence



**We are using CONNECT as our school's major form of communication including latest information regarding COVID-19.**

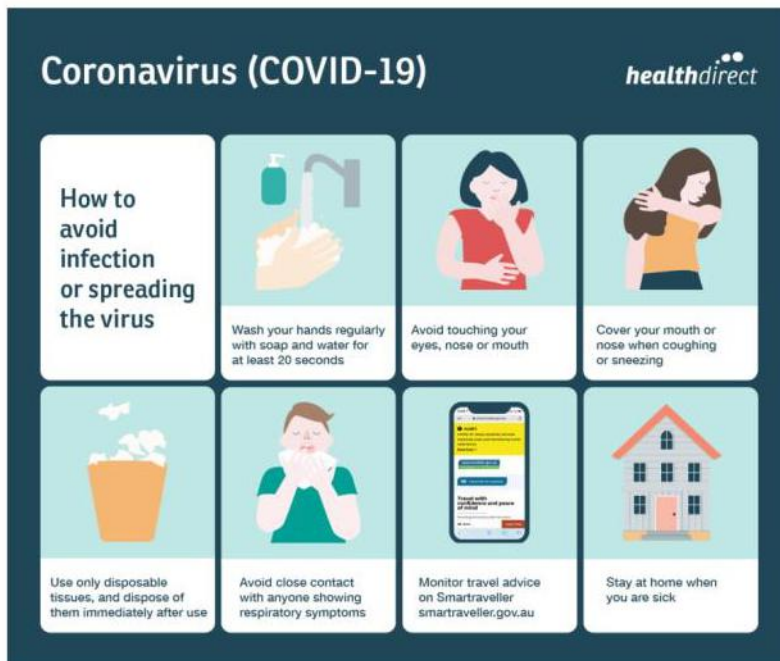
If you are having any problems reading notifications or you cannot remember your log on details, please phone the office on **ph 6278 5400**.

One of our office staff will help to resolve your CONNECT issue.

Please be aware that if your mobile device performs an automatic update, it may log you off CONNECT.

If this happens, you will need to re-enter your **P-Number and password**.

It is important you keep your P-Number and password somewhere safe as this can happen regularly.



PLEASE CUT THIS SECTION OFF AND KEEP ON YOUR FRIDGE



**P-NUMBER:**

**PASSWORD:**

**Our School Values**  
Respect and Responsibility ~ Teamwork and Sportsmanship ~ Acceptance and Belonging ~ Striving for Excellence